# women's legal service tasmania annual report 2019-2020

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## About Us

It is our vision that all women have equal access to justice in Tasmania.

We empower women to take control of their own lives by providing holistic, client-centred legal services.

We do this because women experience specific barriers, structural inequality, on account of their different life experiences of factors like poverty, family violence and pay inequality.

Women's Legal Service Tasmania operate a free and state-wide service, with offices in Hobart, Burnie and Launceston.

From our office in Hobart we provide confidential and free legal advice and referral to women right across Tasmania through our telephone advice line. Our highly skilled legal staff are able to provide advice and referral on all legal matters, including family law, family violence, civil and criminal law, as well as estate and property law. In addition to providing telephone advice, we are at times able to take on casework for clients throughout Tasmania who need representation with their legal matters.

Our Burnie office has been operational since April 2016 after Women's Legal Service Tasmania was chosen to open a specialist family violence unit in the north west of Tasmania as part of the Australian Government's response to rising family violence in our communities. Our Burnie office provides legal information, advice and support on any legal matter to those clients in the north west of the state who are experiencing, or who have experienced, family violence.

Our Launceston office operates with funding secured in part as an extension of our Burnie office, and in part through funding provided by the Tasmanian State Government from the *Family Violence Action Plan 2015–2020*. Our Launceston office provides legal information, advice and support on any legal matter to those clients in the north of the state who are experiencing, or who have experienced, family violence.

Women's Legal Service Tasmania is also able to provide community legal education sessions and workshops throughout the Tasmanian community. We produce legal information publications such as brochures, booklets, factsheets, and websites, and strive to make the legal system more accessible and responsive to the issues affecting women through our law reform work.

Women's Legal Service Tasmania is managed and staffed by women who are sensitive to the diverse needs of individual women and groups within the Tasmanian community. For legal advice or assistance, you can contact us through our telephone advice line, or by calling our Burnie office directly if you are in north west Tasmania, and our Launceston office in the north. For all other information or enquiries, please call our Hobart office.



### A Message from the Board of Management

The past year has been exciting one for the Service with the first full year for our new CEO, Yvette. Supporting the staff to embrace change and develop as a (geographically dispersed) team with a strong organisational culture has been a priority of the Board and was actively pursued by Yvette. This flexibility of the staff to work differently through COVID restrictions was essential in supporting women in need.

#### Governance

A special resolution at the previous AGM heralded the adoption of a new constitution integrating best governance practices such as a maximum board tenure of six years, removing the CEO as a board member, and adding office bearer positions of Chair and Treasurer.

The Management Collective philosophy that had underpinned the Board of Management was retained as much as possible in minimising office bearers and aiming for consensus decision making, however in the rapidly changing environment requiring quick decisions, some adjustments had to be made.

Supporting the changes to the Constitution, the Governance policies have been completely revised and a timetable for review has been implemented. The Board has also benefited from a Finance Sub-Committee (chaired by the Treasurer) reviewing more detailed financial documents, enabling clearer and more simplified financial documents to be presented to the Board.

A strong emphasis on the strategic plan has been supported by Yvette through reporting to the Board against strategic priorities. Such reporting has enabled continual monitoring and is encompassed in the CEO's performance review developed by the Board this year.

#### **Our Staff**

We are so very privileged to have such a dedicated team working at WLST. The commitment of the staff to work together on whatever platform (face-to-face or online) during COVID to maintain the provision of Service delivery is a credit to the Service. We are also a step closer to being more proactive (rather than just reactive) with a social worker and a financial counsellor as part of our more holistic response.

#### **Our Board of Management**

As a Board we have undergone a significant renewal process. This year we welcomed Liz Leslie, Emily Bill, Molly Bird and Emily Ridler to the Board, and for a brief period Eveleen Rao.

Sadly, we farewelled Rebecca Phelps who had been with the Board for over six years and had played an integral role on the Board.

Although the Board no longer operates as a Management Collective, it still remains highly supportive and retains close to a flat structure where members work together to achieve the best outcome of the Service.

It has been my absolute honour to have been part of the Board for over eleven years, but to allow for Board renewal (and with the changes to the Constitution), I am stepping down from the Board this year.

I look forward to watching the Service flourish under Yvette's leadership with the Board supporting the staff to do what they do best – providing legal advice and support to empower Tasmanian women to take control of their own lives.



Dr Sonia Shimeld Chair of the Board of Management

"Thank you, Women's Legal Service Tasmania – you helped a client of ours through a call-back appointment from your Hobart office. It was really appreciated that you had records of an earlier interaction with the clients, which meant that she did not have to re-tell her traumatic story."

Manager, East Devonport Child & Family Centre

### **Our Services**

#### Why a legal service for women?

In addition to the general legal problems that can affect anyone, there are areas of law in which a women's experience is different – as the victim of a crime, particularly sexual or family violence, as the primary carer of children, or through discrimination or lack of equal opportunity in employment or business.

Some women face additional barriers in accessing justice due to factors such as cost, child care responsibilities, and feelings of intimidation by having to go to court or dealing with a male dominated legal profession. Other issues such as language barriers, cultural backgrounds, disability, sexuality, geographical isolation can compound to make access to a legal service intimidating and difficult.

Women's Legal Service Tasmania is staffed by women who are sensitive to the diverse needs of women as individuals and as a part of a community.

#### **Telephone Advice Line**

Women's Legal Service Tasmania is a community legal service funded by the Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department. We operate a free and confidential state-wide telephone advice line from our Hobart office from 10:00am to 4:00pm each weekday. Wherever you live in Tasmania, the first point of contact with the service is often through our telephone advice line, where you will be able to speak directly with a solicitor regarding your legal issue. Solicitors are able to answer questions and provide legal advice, and if a client requires further assistance or an appointment, they will be able to arrange it.

Calling our 1800 682 468 number is free from landlines and most mobiles (some phone companies do charge for calling 1800 numbers, so please check before dialling). You can call the 1800 number from anywhere in Tasmania, and the call will not be displayed on your telephone bill.

All calls are completely confidential.

#### Representation

Women's Legal Service Tasmania is able to provide some ongoing legal assistance for clients through casework, including representation services in court, tribunals or mediation.

While our focus is on achieving successful outcomes for our clients through negotiation, it is inevitable that we will need to assist some of our clients to make applications to the Court.

Matters in the Federal Circuit Court/Family Court range from simple Divorce Applications and Applications for Consent Orders, through to highly contested parenting and property matters. We generally attend the Magistrates Court for Family Violence Order applications and variations.

In an effort to assist those most in need and make the most of our resources, in some cases

we help capable clients by preparing court documents, and providing advice and guidance to assist the client represent themselves. We pride ourselves on providing a personal and holistic service, which can support women through the often-stressful court process.

Our solicitors provide representation for routine court events, conciliation conferences, Family Dispute Resolution Conferences, and Interim and Consent Hearings. However, interim hearings involving complex issues, and contested final hearings are generally briefed to a barrister. We are lucky to have a number of very experienced barristers linked in with our service, who have provided pro-bono assistance and/or reduced rates to our clients, in support of our Service's objectives.

#### **Community Legal Education and Engagement**

As a community legal centre, a big part of what we do is to provide a range of early intervention and preventative strategies such as community legal education. We work with other legal service providers and community groups like neighbourhood houses and community centres to present legal information on various topics to groups of women right across the state.

We manage and provide workshops in schools, and provide specific legal information for young people through our Girls Gotta Know and Guys Gotta Know websites. We work on community development, creating partnerships with other legal assistance service providers as well as community service providers such as counselling services, women's shelters, community health organisations, housing, drug and alcohol services in order to provide a cohesive, holistic response to community need.

#### Law Reform

Women's Legal Service Tasmania is constantly working towards making the legal system more accessible and more responsive to the issues affecting women. We want to promote a legal system that is responsive to the needs of women accessing justice.

We regularly prepare submissions regarding proposed changes to the law, and are part of a national network of community legal centres specialising in women's issues.

Over the past year, we have worked on the following submissions, having identified these issues and proposed amendments as ones that will potentially have a significant impact on women:

- Submission for the Legal Recognition of Sex and Gender
- Submission to the Family Law Inquiry
- Recognition of Coercive Control
- Partnered with SASS to deliver a joint submission to the Evidence (Children and Special Witnesses) Amendment Bill 2020.

"Thank you very much to Rebecca – she considered my emotional state, and gave me the option of hearing everything that was in an abusive letter from my ex-partner, or just telling me the things that directly related to my case. I really appreciated not having to hear all the horrible things that were written."

## Chief Executive Officer's Report

In the 2019-2020 year, 1493 women were assisted by Women's Legal Service Tasmania state-wide.

Most of this assistance was the provision of 1579 legal advice services, the provision of 284 legal information services, and 164 legal tasks services.

We provided legal representation in court to 82 clients, and provided non-legal support to another 22 clients.

These legal services were delivered by a team of eight legal staff, who were ably assisted by an administrative team equivalent to four full-time staff.

As CEO, up until March 17, I spent every second week in Hobart, three days a fortnight in Launceston and two days a fortnight working from our Burnie office, assisting our team to be more connected and engaged in the work of the organisation. After March 17, our offices at each site closed and we began delivering legal services remotely on account of the international pandemic, COVID-19.

All of these activities ensured that we delivered access to justice in Tasmania for women either through a Domestic Violence Unit in Burnie or Launceston, or through our telephone advice line from our Hobart office.



#### Outreach

Up until March 17, when we activated our business continuity plan, we continued to offer outreach to the Mary Hutchinson Women's Prison in Hobart, the Launceston General Hospital and Laurel House in the north, the St Helens, Sheffield, Smithton, East Devonport and Queenstown communities.

The outreach provided through our Launceston office is more regular and structured, whereas outreach around the rest of the state is more sporadic in order to be responsive to community need.

#### **Community Legal Education**

We provided 34 Community Legal Education (CLE) sessions state-wide.

These have included delivering sessions at the Launceston General Hospital, and to members of the St Helens, Burnie, East Devonport, Smithton, Sheffield and Queenstown communities, where community legal education sessions have been developed and tailored to respond to community need and requests.

Community legal education sessions are designed to empower women with information so they can make the best decisions for themselves. They also provide an opportunity for women to be warmly referred between community services.

Pre-COVID-19, we provided engaging, collaborative and multi-disciplinary face-to-face community legal education in Burnie, St Helens and Smithton as we trialled new ways of engaging the community to discuss the issues of family violence through the Mentoring Violence Prevention program.

The global pandemic forced us to change our service delivery in order to ensure that women continued to have access to legal information. Through short informal Facebook Live sessions, our staff were able to keep the community informed on different areas of the law. We have noted that the number of views these sessions received greatly exceeded the number of people we would otherwise have reached in our cancelled in-person sessions – this has extended our service reach. We intend to continue to use this form of service delivery postpandemic.

We produced a podcast and commenced recordings for an additional series of podcasts, in order to showcase the type of work we do, and highlighting the need for reforms to the system. These podcasts utilise the voices of those who have used the legal system to sort out their disputes. This project will be released in the next financial year.

We also embraced joint livestream opportunities to promote multi-disciplinary and varied voices in the family law space, and to promote community legal centre careers in the law.

#### **Our Team**

We have invested significant resources in maintaining our relationships as a staff team, and have developed an organisational cultural plan which we are all working towards. This plan followed a consultant review of our culture, which involved all staff providing input.

COVID-19 required that this engagement with staff be reimagined as we developed systems to be able to work remotely from our homes to provide legal services for our clients. Culturally, our focus has been on the professional development and support of our staff. This has included a two-day staff session held in Launceston to better understand ourselves and others.

We also entered a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Relationships Australia to provide supervision, support and debriefing to all of our staff on a bi-monthly basis. We see this as a way of ensuring that we prioritise our staff safety - the nature of the work we do in the family violence space requires that we have an eye to both the vicarious trauma implications, and the workplace health and safety issues that may arise.

Operationally, this MOU assists us to manage this risk inherent in the work we deliver to clients experiencing trauma.

We are also mindful of the statistics that one in four women have an experience of family violence. On the basis of this statistic it is reasonable to assume that in any and all workplaces, up to a quarter of staff have a lived experience of family violence.

We have also commenced work on improving the feedback we collect from our clients.

#### The Board of Management

We have worked on improving our reporting to our Board in order to be more strategic. The CEO's Monthly Report reflects the strategic priorities identified by the Board to achieve our vision - to see women having equal access to justice in Tasmania.

The CEO's Monthly Report is shared with staff, and the Board review a case study each month alternately provided from each different office.

#### The Legal Assistance Sector

We have also invested heavily in stakeholder engagement within the legal assistance sector.

We signed an MOU with The Legal Aid Commission of Tasmania (LACT) which clarified our point of difference as a specialist service provider to women, working within a feminist framework and adopting a trauma informed approach to our work.

We have continued to actively contribute to Community Legal Centres Tasmania (CLCTas), the peak body for community legal centres in Tasmania, and have continued to support student placement for law graduates across our sites to contribute to building a skilled legal profession.



We have facilitated and organised a family violence continuing professional development session (CPD) collaboratively with the Law Society of Tasmania to improve understanding within the profession of family violence.

#### **Community Sector**

We have continued to attend and participate in the DVCC meetings in the south, north and north-west.

We also worked closely with both TasCOSS and Health Justice Australia to develop a proposal for a Health Justice Partnership in Tasmania, focusing on women and children experiencing family violence. Work on this project will be ongoing.

We have worked with Anglicare to secure financial counselling services for our clients through our Burnie and Launceston offices.

We entered an MOU with Relationships Australia to support our staff with supervision state-wide.

We partnered with the Hobart Women's Shelter, Engender Equality and Hobart Women's Health Centre to pilot, and then propose the delivery of Mentoring Violence Prevention workshops, throughout Tasmania.

We have also actively engaged in our national association, Women's Legal Services Australia (WLSA), and I am also the WLSA representative on the Australian Women Against Violence Alliance (AWAVA).

#### Law Reform

We have contributed to various law reform discussions. We have continued our important advocacy work notwithstanding the Commonwealth's stance that this is not a valid activity.

This has included:

- Disputing the Commonwealth Government's stance that unless we are asked for an opinion we are not to publicly express one.
- Advocating for the introduction of a nonfatal strangulation crime in Tasmania;
- Further entrenching coercive control and coercion and control provisions in the *Family Violence Act 2004 (Tas)*, including promoting the use of this terminology in state criminal proceedings and in family law proceedings;
- Promoting the WLSA Five Step Plan for reforming the family law system, including introducing a risk assessment tool that sits across federal and state court jurisdictions;
- Discussing and promoting the full definition of family violence throughout

the community, so this is better understood alongside the gendered nature of family violence.

#### Integrated service delivery

Each client to whom we provide legal advice is also referred to other specialist service providers.

Most of our casework clients have complex trauma histories and experiences, often as a result of the family violence they have experienced. This requires that more time be invested in providing legal services to these clients to ensure they are able to present their legal case appropriately.

We have also further developed and focused on our working relationships with other specialist service providers such as Engender Equality (EE), Family Violence Counselling & Support (FVCSS), Sexual Assault Services (SASS) and Laurel House.

We have re-thought and constituted our Domestic Violence Units in Burnie and Launceston. We recruited a social worker in Burnie, who works with our clients for two days each week.

We have partnered with Anglicare Tasmania to deliver financial counselling through a subcontracting arrangement. Following that arrangement, we resolved to bring the financial counsellor position in-house and have commenced training an existing staff member for this role.

We are still exploring what an integrated framework model will look like for our service moving forward. In the same vein, we are continuing to explore what a Health Justice Partnership could look like as part of this integrated approach.

#### Sustainability

We have worked hard to proactively broaden our funding base. This has involved preparing and developing a range of funding submissions and projects to Financial Counselling Australia, the Department of Justice, the Commonwealth Attorney-General, the State Attorney-General, the Tasmanian Community Fund and the Tasmanian Department of Communities.

We invested a lot of time and energy in developing a Health Justice Partnership proposal initially to respond to the Commonwealth funding round.

Through the Solicitors' Guarantee Fund, we were successful in applying for funding to pay for disbursements for our clients, such as providing funding for Barristers to be briefed to assist our clients with complex litigation.

#### COVID-19

From March 17, all staff worked remotely to continue to offer legal services to our clients in the midst of the global pandemic.

We moved quickly to provide a remote work environment in order to secure the safety of our clients and our staff. We are grateful for the Government assistance provided to reimburse us for the expenses incurred through purchasing equipment to ensure staff were able to work from home.

We developed and activated our business continuity plan, also later developing a return to work plan complying with COVID-19 workplace standards.

While working remotely, we trialled new ways of service delivery – moving all our community legal education activities and outreach work to online, and updating all of our existing online resources, including our fact sheets, and the Girls Gotta Know and Guys Gotta Know websites.

I would like to thank all staff for the personal contributions that they each made through using their own resources to ensure that we could continue to provide legal services to our Tasmanian community during this time.



Yvette Cehtel Chief Executive Officer



#### Sasha

Homeless, and speaking very little English, Sasha had impending criminal charges and no legal support.

Having trained in her home country as a health professional, Sasha, now in her sixties, had moved to Australia a decade ago to care for her elderly husband.

She found herself subjected to ongoing family violence – verbal abuse, controlling behavior and physical violence, often literally thrown and locked out of the house. She told no-one of the abuse – having borrowed some money from her family back home, she thought if she told them her situation, she would lose their respect.

Speaking very little English, Sasha had no connections in the local community, and nowhere to turn.

We arranged for interpreting services, and spoke with Sasha about her situation; we made contact with a housing provider, who gave Sasha temporary accommodation.

We worked with Police Prosecutions to recognise the pattern of reported family violence, which then allowed Sasha to be eligible for assistance from the Family Violence Counselling and Support Service.

With ongoing access to an interpreter, we were able to help Sasha put forward her explanation of the latest family violence incident, who then agreed to adjourn the matter and dismiss after twelve months if there were no further charges.

We have been able to provide many hours of legal assistance, and have appeared in Court on four occasions. We have been able to provide translating and interpreting services, and have arranged for community-based counselling.

Without our specialist family violence service and trauma informed approach, Sasha had no other access to any of this assistance.

### Kylie

Two kids, and on a single parenting payment - then Kylie started seeing Dave.

Kylie had two children from a previous relationship when she started seeing Dave, who had a child of his own. She was receiving a single parenting payment, and Dave was employed as a builder, but business was slow – Dave told Kylie to hold off updating Centrelink of their new situation, because he wouldn't be able to support her and the kids.

Dave didn't want Kylie to work because they couldn't afford childcare, and if she was at home, Dave's son was able to come and visit more often.

A few months went by, and Kylie didn't feel right about not updating Centrelink – she spoke to Dave, but he got angry, threatening to leave her and reporting her to Centrelink.

Business picked up, but Dave insisted Kylie pay for her own expenses with the Centrelink money. Kylie raised the issue of Centrelink a few times, but each time Dave became angry and violent – one time he grabbed Kylie around the throat, and threatened to leave her if she did.

The business was profitable, Dave paid for some renovations, and bought a couple of nice cars in his name – meanwhile, the violence increased and Kylie was the one caring for Dave's son. A few years later, and the violence was so bad that Kylie decided to leave.

Kylie spoke to a lawyer, who told her that she was entitled to a share of the now significant property pool, but if she were to make an application for her share, she risked being charged with Centrelink fraud. She risked getting a huge fine, and maybe end up in jail.

Kylie packed a suitcase and took the kids to a women's shelter while she looked for rental accommodation. She decided not to pursue an application, as the result might be devastating. She'd been out of the workforce for so long, she couldn't get a job, and she stayed on Centrelink.

Dave continued developing his business, and retained all the benefit of the equity in the house, and all the other assets that Kylie had left behind, acquired in part as a result of the funds received from the single parenting payment, and Kylie's support with the home and childcare.

### our impact Social Work Support in the Burnie DVU

Our Burnie Domestic Violence Unit Social Worker, Dawn Woolley, has been with us since May this year, employed for two days a week to provide social work support to our DVU clients in Burnie and Launceston. Dawn has also been able to work remotely with Hobart clients.

Clients are internally referred to receive social work support, and as knowledge of the service has become more widespread, Dawn is finding some clients are self-referring into the Service.

Dawn has been able to assist clients with emotional, trauma-informed and practical support. Clients are provided initial support, and are referred into other services for ongoing assistance. Dawn has referred clients into financial counselling, respite services, community cultural groups, advocacy services and government departments. Some clients will continue to engage with in-house social work support for the duration of their legal matter.

Ongoing support has been given to clients who are experiencing varying concerns – low selfesteem, anger, mental health issues, fear of not having enough money to support themselves or their children, women who are tired of the ongoing fight for their children and their rights.

Dawn says, "Social Workers work along-side our clients, supporting them through their journey, and encouraging them to make the best choices for them. We help them approach problems from different angles – we look at the many factors that impact on their life, and help to empower them to navigate their way forward at times when this may be difficult for them.

You could say our mission is to enhance wellbeing, as we help meet basic and complex needs, and our focus is on those who are particularly vulnerable.

At Women's Legal Service, my role as a social worker is to help clients get through the legal process. I can also help them to make longer term connections to other services in the community for additional and ongoing support."

of our clients had

low or no income

of our clients have dependent children

48%

# acknowledgements Other Assistance

We sincerely thank all of our supporters for their generosity and encouragement to continue our work throughout Tasmania.

#### **Volunteer & Student Placements**

Women's Legal Service Tasmania fosters a learning environment for students and young lawyers, and offers several opportunities throughout the year for volunteers and student placements to occur. Volunteers and students assist our solicitors with casework and valuable research. Thank you to:

#### Georgia Hugen

#### In Kind Contributions

We highly value those contributions made by individuals and businesses in private legal practice. These contributions enable women to access services and assistance that may not otherwise have been available. Thank you to the following people who have assisted Women's Legal Service Tasmania this year:

Jack Dalby Mary Evans David Lewis Kate Mooney SC Sandra Taglieri SC

#### **Donations and Fundraising**

We are very grateful that many individuals and groups in our community have continued their ongoing support to Women's Legal Service Tasmania, some through philanthropic donations, and some through a financial commitment from their weekly or fortnightly salaries. We sincerely thank all of these individuals for their generosity and ongoing support.

Ann Sheehan Narelle Downham Emily Baker Marianne Hevern Hobart City Council Kate Cuthbertson Jeff Schneider Bryn Griffiths Paypal Giving Fund

## acknowledgements Our People

#### **Board of Management**

Sonia Shimeld Olivia Rundle Melissa Harback Amelia Higgs	
Liz Leslie Rebecca Phelps Emily Bill	joined Jul 19 resigned Sep 19 joined Sep 19
Molly Bird Emily Ridler Eveleen Rao	joined Sep 17 joined Mar 20 joined Apr 20 joined Apr 20

#### Staff

#### Statewide

Yvette Cehtel	CEO
Lisa Zeitzen	Finance Manager
Kim Woolley	<b>Operations Manager</b>

#### Hobart

Oona Fisher	Solicitor, Principal Solicitor from Sep 19
Lillian King Roberts	Solicitor
Taya Ketelaar-Jones	Solicitor until Sep 19
Dhurka Maheswaran	Solicitor from Oct 19
Ali Sawyer	Solicitor from Jun 20
Brittany Slater	Administration

#### Launceston

Hannah Scollard	Senior Solicitor
Rebecca Irwin	Solicitor from Jul 19
Hannah Knowles	Administration, Trainee Financial Counsellor from Apr 20

#### Burnie

Kyra Foster	Solicitor
Emma Field	Solicitor until Mar 20
Amelia Baker	Senior Solicitor
Dawn Woolley	Social Worker from May 20
Ann Wright	Administration

### Auditor's Report

This is an extract of WLST Audited Financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2020. A complete copy of the Audited Financial Report is available upon request.

# Women's Legal Service (Tasmania) Inc

A.B.N. 56 678 500 843

### **Financial Report**

For the Year Ended 30 June 2020



Business + Personal + Financial Solutions Sydney + Melbourne + Brisbane + Perth + Adelaide + Hobart Location: Level 1/18 Ross Avenue, Rosny Park TAS 7018 Telephone: +61 3 6244 5044

# Women's Legal Service (Tasmania) Inc Income Statement by Grant Funding For the Year Ended 30 June 2020

_	DVU	FVAP	NLAP	Other	TOTAL
Ordinary Income/Expense					
Income					
(a) NPA Funding	-	-	610,550	-	610,550
(b) Funds Forward	187,781 -	12,209 -	93,329 -	11,313	70,929
(c) DVU Funding Grants	507,520	-	-	-	507,520
(d) FVAP Launceston	-	214,161	-	-	214,161
(e) Interest Received	1,796	1,796	9,257	-	12,850
(e) SGF (client disbursement)	-	-	-	20,000	20,000
(f) Non CLSP Income	2,180	153	158	17,065	19,555
(g) Cash Flow stimulus		-	-	50,000	50,000
Total Income	699,277	203,901	526,636	75,751	1,505,565
	699,277	203,901	526,636	75,751	1,505,565
Expense					
(a) Salaries PAYABLE	414,844	131,032	376,994	-	922,870
(b) On Costs Salary	12,650	7,512	19,533	-	39,695
(c) Staff Recruitment	1,635	-	-	-	1,635
(d) Staff Training	10,888	4,196	4,452	-	19,536
(e) Superannuation Payable	40,298	12,822	34,683	-	87,803
(f) Financial Counselling Serv	83,333	-	-	-	83,333
Amoritisation	19,556	24,025	-	-	43,581
Client Disbursement	3,439	4,454	4,659	3,893	16,445
Client Disbursement (SGF)	-	-	-	9,750	9,750
Communication	5,106	1,023	4,798	-	10,927
Depreciation	-	-	1,065	-	1,065
Finance, Audit & Accounting	2,971	2,968	3,451	85	9,475
Insurance	2,856	1,761	2,880	-	7,497
Interest Expense	1,652	2,127	-	-	3,779
Library, Resources & Subs	33,396	2,940	7,253	-	43,589
Minor Equipment	3,161	-	36	-	3,197
Office Overhead	25,235	4,263	21,247	-	50,744
Other Premises Cost	8,396	1,469	4,923	-	14,788
Programming & Planning	8,369	567	1,007	23	9,965
Rent	12,742 -	959	36,533		48,317
Repairs & Maintenance	491	365	-	-	856
Travel	8,259	3,335	3,122	-	14,716
Total Expense	699,276	203,900	526,636	13,751	1,443,564
Net Ordinary Income	1	1		62,000	62,002
tIncome	1	1		62,000	62,002

# Women's Legal Service (Tasmania) Inc Statement of Financial Position

As At 30 June 2020

AS AL 50 Julie 2020			
	Note	2020 \$	2019 \$
ASSETS	Hote	Ŷ	•
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash and cash equivalents	4	1,019,610	1,134,787
Trade and other receivables		129,883	3,310
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		1,149,494	1,138,097
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Plant and equipment	5	4,261	5,326
Right-of-use assets	6	72,132	-
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS		76,393	5,326
TOTAL ASSETS		1,225,886	1,143,423
LIABILITIES			
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Trade and other payables	7	60,175	53,316
Employee benefits	8	90,062	55,862
Other liabilities	9	398,035	516,748
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES		548,272	625,926
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Employee benefits	8	24,561	
Lease liabilities	10	73,554	-
TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES		98,115	-
TOTAL LIABILITIES		646,387	625,926
NET ASSETS		579,499	517,497
EQUITY			
Accumulated surpluses		567,499	517,497
Community development reserve		12,000	-
TOTAL EQUITY		579,499	517,497
-			· · · · · ·



### Women's Legal Service (Tasmania) Inc **Officers' Assertion Statement**

For the Year Ended 30 June 2020

The Board has determined that the charity is not a reporting entity and that this special purpose financial report should be prepared in accordance with the accounting policies outlined in Note 1 to the financial statements.

In the opinion of the Board, the attached financial report:

- 1. Presents a true and fair view of the financial position of the Women's Legal Service (Tasmania) Inc, as at 30 June 2020 and its performance for the period 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2020;
- 2. At the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that the Women's Legal Service (Tasmania) Inc will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

This statement is made in accordance with a resolution of the Board and is signed for and on behalf of the Board by:

Stimeld

Chairperson

Dated: 29 / 09 / 2020

Elfed reasurer

Dated: 29 / 09 / 2020



### Women's Legal Service (Tasmania) Inc Auditor's Independence Declaration

For the Year Ended 30 June 2020

**Dear Members** 

As auditor for the Women's Legal Service (Tasmania) Inc for the year ended 30 June 2020, I declare that to the best of my knowledge and belief, there have been:

- 1) No contraventions of the auditor independence requirements of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012* in relation to the audit; and
- 2) No contraventions of any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit.

This declaration is in respect of the above-mentioned charity.

Yours sincerely

Michael Burnett B.Com.F.C.A. Registered Company Auditor: 281 Partner Level 1/18 Ross Avenue, Rosny Park TAS 7018



### **Independent Auditor's Report**

To the members of Women's Legal Service (Tasmania) Inc

#### **Qualified Opinion**

We have audited the financial report of Women's Legal Service (Tasmania) Inc (the Entity), which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2020, the statement of comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information, and the officers' assertion statement.

In our opinion, except for the possible effects of the matter described in the Basis for Qualified Opinion paragraph, the accompanying financial report presents fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Entity as at 30 June 2020 and of its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*.

#### **Basis for Qualified Opinion**

We were appointed as auditors for the entity for the 2020 financial year. Thus, we were unable to obtain sufficient appropriate evidence regarding the comparative figures. As such, our assurance provided is limited to the 2020 figures. Please refer to the previous auditor's report for assurance on the 2019 figures.

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report section of our report. We are independent of the Entity in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standard Board's APES 110 *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants* (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

#### Emphasis of Matter – Basis of Accounting

We draw attention to Note 1 to the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared to assist Women's Legal Service (Tasmania) Inc to meet the requirements of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose.

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Acct. Hobert Pty Ltd ABN 300009352384 is an autonomous and separately accountable member of Acctu and CPA. Associates international inc. Hability limited by a scheme approved under Professional Standards Leajs at els.



#### Responsibilities of the Board for the Financial Report

The Board is responsible for the preparation of the financial report in accordance with the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*, and for such internal control as the Board determines is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, the Board is responsible for assessing the Entity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Board either intends to liquidate the Entity or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

The Board is responsible for overseeing the Entity's financial reporting process.

#### Auditor's Responsibility for the Audit of the Financial Report

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the financial report.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial report is located at the Auditing and Assurance Standards Board website at: <u>http://www.auasb.gov.au/Home.aspx</u>. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

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Michael Burnett B.Com.F.C.A. Registered Company Auditor: 281 Partner Level 1/18 Ross Avenue, Rosny Park TAS 7018